

Daily Report

Sub-Saharan Africa

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ECOWAS Ordinary Session Opens in Accra

AB2507101395 Accra Ghana Broadcasting Corporation Radio Network in English 2000 GMT 24 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The 37th ordinary session of the ECOWAS [Economic Community of West African States] Council of Ministers has opened in Accra with a call on the ministers to identify and discuss the reasons for the very limited impact that ECOWAS has had on the people and countries of the subregion. The three-day meeting was opened by Ghana's finance minister, Dr. Kwesi Botchwey, who is chairman of the Council of Ministers. This report is by Augustina Pick and Paul Adjetey Djane.

[Begin recording] [Pick] Dr. Kwesi Botchwey noted that ECOWAS has not made much significant achievement, within its 20 years' existence, to be proud of. He therefore urged the ministers to reflect soberly on the performance of the community and come out more dedicated to work toward achieving the objectives of ECOWAS. Dr. Botchwey said economic performance in the subregion over the past one-and-a-half decades has been disappointing. He stressed the need to attract large flows of foreign direct investments through regional integration.

[Botchwey] In the world today, it's very clear that somehow the bulk of these private investment resources is going mostly to the East Asian countries and certainly not very much to Africa. The reasons for this trend are complex, but with a certain duty to ensure that those reasons that we can win are there, and the one factor that we only can address is the whole factor of regional integration that will make our markets larger and therefore more attractive. [sentence as heard]

[Pick] The executive secretary of ECOWAS, Mr. Edouard Benjamin, confirmed the unsatisfactory performance of the community. He attributed this state of affairs to what he described as the persistent non-payment of contributions by members. As a result, work-programs continue to be postponed year after year. Mr. Benjamin said the subregion has a serious declining economic growth due to the low production and the civil wars in Liberia and Sierra Leone. He urged member states to consolidate their regional integration efforts to improve the community's finances and economy.

The executive secretary expressed the hope that efforts by some member states to adjust their economy would lead to positive achievements. He said while reflecting on the community's achievements and failures, members should commit themselves to addressing the issue of implementing some of the set goals of the community. He mentioned political pluralism, economic liberalization, and regional integration as issues which must be seriously looked at to ensure the success of the community. This factors notwithstanding, Mr. Benjamin said there is still hope for the region.

[Benjamin] The devaluation of the CFA franc, for example, has resulted in greater competitiveness of UE-MOA [West African Economic and Monetary Union] states and the economic environment that is conducive to growth. Some ECOWAS countries outside the CFA zone particularly Gambia, Ghana, and Guinea have also intensified their adjustment effects. Nigeria, the region's most industrialized country has also effected, more recently, significant changes in economic policy in a bid to deregulate the economy. All these internal economic policies augur well for the future of West Africa.

[Pick] Mr. Benjamin however regretted that most member countries have still not ratified the ECOWAS revised treaty aimed at strengthening and accelerating the development of the subregion. [end recording]

'AfricaNet' Venture To Modernize Telecommunications

MB2207165795 Maputo SAVANA in Portuguese 14 Jul 95 p 14

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Portugal's Radio Marconi and its Brazilian partners will establish a data network to link Mozambique to other Lusophone African countries, namely Angola, Cape Verde, Guinea, and Sao Tome and Principe. The project will be implemented by a joint venture to be known as AfricaNet.

Maputo soon will be linked to Luanda by means of submarine cable to be installed by AT&T, a U.S. multinational. This will enable Mozambique and Angola to enter the modern era of telecommunications. [passage omitted]

AT&T intends to lay a submarine cable around Africa, linking 39 points in 32 countries, Luanda and Maputo being two of the points. The cable will carry telephone and fax calls, data, and video transmissions to and from African countries where one now has to wait hours for an international linkup.

Senegal's Sonatel To Open Line to South Africa

EA2407165495 Nairobi KNA in English 1045 GMT 24 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dakar, Senegal (KNA/PANA)

— Senegal, which has one of the best performing telecommunications systems in Africa, plans to open

a satellite telecom line to South Africa in the coming months. Aissatou Dieng, commercial and external affairs director of the National Telecommunications Company of Senegal (Sonatel), told PANA that South African officials are expected in Dakar on 14th August to seal the deal.

Sonatel, she said, is also exploring prospects for establishing direct links with Kenya and Zambia through Intelsat. Currently, the company has direct links with some 20 African countries. Twelve of these, mainly French-speaking countries are through satellite lines.

Generally, direct communication between Dakar and English-speaking Africa are through marine cables and microwave links, prone to constant disruptions. This has been the case with Nigeria caused by fissures since April on the atlantic marine cable in Abidjan, linking Lagos with Dakar and most West African countries. Presently, calls from and to Lagos have to be routed through Paris or London and these can only come through if the European lines are free, Dieng said.

In addition, Sonatel has reached a feasibility study agreement with the telecom companies of Argentina, Brazil, France, Portugal and Spain for a fibre/optics marine cable system tagged Atlantis-2. Dieng said under the accord signed in May, the system, which is expected to come into operation between 1998 and 2000, will link up Brazil with Senegal, Portugal and Spain, and could practically cover all desiring countries in West Africa. It is configured to meet the basic telecom needs of the regions concerned. It will also convey data and provide other services thanks to advanced optic digital hitech, she said.

"Atlantis-2 will be the first optic fibres marine cable earthed in West Africa and will provide extensions to Europe and North and South America, as well as to the West African optic fibres marine cable project whose accord was signed on 12th April 1995 in Dakar by Benin, Cape Verde, Gambia, Guinea, Mauritania, Senegal and Togo," a Sonatel document said.

Eritrea

Government Issues Decree on Religions Bodies

EA2407193995 Asmara Voice of the Broad Masses of Eritrea in Tigrinya 1600 GMT 24 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Government of Eritrea has issued a decree clarifying the legal basis on which religions and religious institutions will operate under the law. In its decree, the Government of Eritrea said that whereas the inalienable rights of the individual Eritrean citizen to freedom of conscience and freedom of worship are enshrined in the Constitution, the government as a political system, and religions and religious institutions as spiritual institutions, are very different. Therefore the Constitution clearly lays down that the government will not interfere in religious affairs, and religions and religious institutions unrelated to political affairs. The decree points out that religions and religious institutions have the right to engage in spiritual activities without interfering in politics. The decree notes that religious institutions will not be allowed to represent any foreign government or political force.

Kenya

Muslims To 'Demonstrate' Unless Head Reinstated

EA2407170595 Nairobi KTN Television Network in English 1000 GMT 24 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A group of Muslims claiming to be representatives of the Muslim community in the country, have issued a warning to the Majlis [council] Committee of Jamia Mosque in Nairobi that they are ready to demonstrate throughout the entire country if the suspended Shaykh Ali Shee is not reinstated to head the mosque. In a press statement, which was signed by nine Muslims from different parts of the country, the Majlis Committee, which last week suspended the imam from the mosque, was accused of having antiblack imams, and also of aligning themselves with the yet-to-be registered Safina Party.

Shaykh Shee, an Islamic studies graduate from the University of Khartoum, had earlier aroused controversies among the Muslim community after his call to all the Muslims to protest against Safina, saying its name was blasphemous since it was adopted from the Holy Koran.

The statement indicated that the termination of the Shaykh's services was contrary to the wishes of the majority of worshipers and that it was their demand that a fresh contract be granted to him immediately and unconditionally.

Sudanese Foreign Minister Begins Visit

EA2407191795 Khartoum SUNA in English 1710 GMT 24 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nairobi, 24 Jul (SUNA) — Foreign Minister 'Ali 'Uthman Muhammad Taha arrived in the Kenyan capital, Nairobi, Monday [24 July] heading Sudan delegation for participation at the meetings of the joint Sudanese-Kenyan ministerial committee. Taha was received at Nairobi Airport by the Kenyan state minister for foreign affairs and a number of Kenyan senior officials.

Sudan delegation to the meetings included the state minister at the presidency of the Republic Dr. Nafie Ali Nafie, the state minister at the Interior Ministry and Commissioner for Refugees Ihsan al-Ghubshawi and other senior officials.

SUNA learned that the meeting of the joint Sudanese-Kenyan ministerial committee will begin Monday to discuss bilateral cooperation at the political, economic and social fields.

Somalia

Sudanese Diplomats Given 'Ultimatum' To Leave

AB2507112595 Paris AFP in English 0937 GMT 25 Jul 95

[FBIS. Transcribed Text] Mogadishu, 25 July (AFP) — A new organization calling itself the Somali Interest Group published an ultimatum in Mogadishu newspapers Tuesday [25 July] giving Sudanese diplomats until August 3 to quit this lawless nation.

It warned that their security would not be guaranteed if they failed to leave.

Spokesman Hassan Mohamed Kahin accused the diplomats of taking sides in power struggles between clans.

Somalia has not had an internationally recognised government since the overthrow of dictator Mohamed Siad Barre in January 1991, and Sudan is the only country maintaining diplomats here.

Two warlords claim to be "interim president" — Ali Mahdi Mohamed, who controls north Mogadishu, and General Mohamed Farah Aidid, who controls most of south Mogadishu.

Sudanese Charge d'Affaires Hassan Ali Hassan attended a ceremony Sunday in which Aidid installed the 68 members of his "government," and has attended luncheons at Aidid's residence, which has become his "presidential palace." Ethiopia also maintained diplomatic representation here, but its staff left after its senior diplomat, Yamani Abdi, was briefly kidn apped by gunmen two months ago.

AFP Reports Mines Planted in South Mogadishu

AB2507103595 Paris AFP in English 0836 GMT 25 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mogadishu, 25 July (AFP) — Militiamen have mined the entrances to the Medina enclave in south Mogadishu to guard against attacks by fighters loyal to warlord Mohamed Farah Aidid, their commander announced Tuesday [25 July].

Muse Sudi Yalahow, a supporter of General Aidid's main rival, Ali Mahdi Mohamed, said five entrances to the district had been left free, but that anyone coming in through any other route would be considered an aggressor.

Yalahow said his men had planted anti-tank mines "which won't harm pedestrians."

An explosives expert warned however that the mines were old and could detonate under pressure as light as 12 kilograms (26 pounds).

Some of the mines have been laid at the adjoining airport, Yalahow said. It has remained closed since UN troops pulled out of Somalia in early March.

Yalahow said the "security measures" had been taken amid reports that Aidid planned to capture Medina, which is situated in his south Mogadishu fiefdom.

Scores of people were killed in Medina and the south Mogadishu neighborhood of Bermuda last year in fighting pitting Ali Mahdi's Abgal clan militia against the Murusade. Both are sub-clans of the larger Hawiye group.

The Abgals chased the Murusade out of Medina at the end of last year after Murusade leader Mohamed Qanyare Afrah switched allegiance from Ali Mahdi to Aidid. Yalahow also said that children and adults were starving to death in Medina and appealed for urgent humanitarian aid.

Somalia is one the most heavily mined countries in the world, international relief agencies say.

Troops loyal to dictator Mohamed Siad Barre planted an estimated one million mines, most of them in northwestern Somalia, as they retreated from advancing rebels before Siad Barre was overthrown in January 1991

Uganda

Meeting Recommends Abolition of Death Penalty

EA2307151295 Kampala Radio Uganda Network in English 1000 GMT 22 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The first national human rights workshop organized by the Human Rights Network, has ended with a resolution that during the reconsideration stage of the constitution making, the death penalty be abolished and replaced with life imprisonment. The three-day workshop, which was attended by members of human rights organizations at (Luweba) training and conference center, also resolved that the children's bill be approved in its present form as soon as possible.

They also recommended that prisons' conditions be improved and that court (?hearings) be speeded up. While officially closing the human rights workshop, the CA [Constituent Assembly] delegate for Kawempe South, Mr. Medi Kaggwa, advised human rights NGO's [nongovernmental organizations] to always criticize constructively, warning that if they don't, they run a risk of being done away with because of turning themselves into opposition organizations against the government. Mr. Medi Kaggwa advised the different human rights NGO's in Uganda to specialize in the different aspects of human rights in order to avoid duplication.

IFP Congress Calls for Early KwaZulu Elections

MB2407151095 Johannesburg THE STAR in English 24 Jul 95 p 1

[Report by Jovial Rantao]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Inkatha Freedom Party [IFP] and ANC in KwaZulu/Natal are heading for a new election in the province with the IFP national congress making it clear it would stop at nothing to achieve provincial autonomy.

The ANC has accepted the challenge of an early election simultaneously launching a strong attack on IFP leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi.

On the eve of crucial local government elections and amid the escalating violence in KwaZulu/Natal the resolutions adopted by the IFP at its 20th annual conference in Ulundi at the weekend are set to raise tensions in the volatile province and within the Government of National Unity.

The decision to call for an early election in KwaZulu/ Natal is seen as a move to prise support away from the ANC to achieve a two-thirds majority which would enable the IFP to adopt a provincial constitution and attempt to implement its controversial 20-point "secession" plan.

The organisation was mandated by the conference to prepare a programme of action for the holding of an early election as soon as practically possible and to adopt a timetable for such a poll.

Final details of the timing of such an election have not been spelt out and THE STAR was yesterday unable to get clarity from the IFP on the earliest date it might be held.

In a fierce attack on Buthelezi ANC KwaZulu/Natal spokesman Dumisane Makhaye said delegates did not address questions relating to achieving a better life for all.

He also called on the white community and white business, who he said had supported the IFP during last year's general election, to reassess this support and consider their long-term interests.

The IFP also confirmed that its absence from the Constitutional Assembly was permanent and that it would not recognise any document emerging from it, setting the scene for a conflict between the provincial government and the national government on constitutional principles.

The majority of resolutions adopted show that the party is bent on implementing the 20 point plan and is digging in its heels in its fight against the central government.

The conference also urged the "kingdom" (of KwaZulu) to develop a programme to reenact all appropriate laws of the former KwaZulu government, specifically the Ingonyama Trust Act and other laws on land affairs, forestry and water affairs.

Another resolution called on the KwaZulu/Natal government to establish a provincial broadcasting authority and public broadcaster to counter the SABC [South African Broadcasting Corporation], described as an ANC-controlled broadcaster.

The party called for the truth commission to be structured along proper judicial lines which alone could guarantee it did not degenerate into a tool of the ruling political party.

IFP leaders pre-conference threats to dismiss white and Indian officials allegedly guilty of misconduct fizzled out.

ANC, NP Welcome IFP Snap Election

MB2407201495 Johannesburg SABC TV 1 Network in English 1600 GMT 24 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The two main opposition parties in KwaZulu/Natal have welcomed the prospect of a snap election in the province. The ANC and the NP [National Party] were responding to the IFP's [Inkatha Freedom Party] weekend call to its supporters to prepare for an early election. Ami Nanakchand reports:

[Begin recording] [Nanakchand] The IFP contends that the election would lay to rest allegations that irregularities in the April 1994 general elections gave them their slender majority. They are confident that a fresh poll would win them the two-thirds majority necessary to change the Constitution and assume absolute control of the province.

[ANC National Chairperson Jacob Zuma] If the IFP went for elections now, you are likely to end up with a situation far lesser than what they have as a majority, and in fact, in my view, not winning the elections. I think it's rather a dangerous gambling that the IFP is making.

[Nanakchand] The NP said the continuing violence in the province was undermining development, and it would be appropriate to seek a fresh mandate.

[NP spokesman Tino Volker] We would, however, request that it be on the basis of registered voters, and that would eliminate all possible accusations of the amount of irregularities that happened in last year's elections.

[Nanakchand] However, both the ANC and NP voiced concern over the high cost of the poll. It will cost an

estimated 300 million rands for voters to come up with a new mandate. [end recording]

ANC Official Discusses Party Achievements

MB2107145595 Johannesburg NEW NATION in English 21 Jul 95 p 11

[Interview with ANC Deputy Secretary General Cheryl Carolus by Zohra Mohamed; place and date not given]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The NP [National Party, Nats], DP [Democratic Party] and even the IFP [Inkatha Freedom Party] have capitalised on the ANC's supposed nondelivery of its election promises. Indications are that this will continue in the local election campaign. What is the ANC doing to counter this?

The ANC has done very well, the ANC in government has done remarkably well. The Nats and our political detractors have tried to give us bad press on the free health care plan, for example. Here, they must eat their words if they're honest enough.

It's true there has been an increase in the number of people who go to hospitals, but in the past if people could not afford going to hospital they would delay. By then the situation gets worse, and if a child goes into the intensive care unit, it costs a few hundred rands a day. If you had treated that child at an early stage, you could have saved a lot more in the end. So the ANC has done much better than it thought during the election campaign.

What we have achieved in the space of one year has been quite remarkable. Undoubtedly the role of government in it has been a critical factor. One reason we had problems in the past is that we did not have a government which had either a commitment to the majority of the people or a political will to deal with it. The ANC has built its strength on the basis of people involvement at a grassroots level. However since it went into government, it has failed to communicate adequately with the very people who voted it into power. An ANC minister recently stated that while they like about people involvement, they sit in their ivory towers without actually involving the people.

There is room for improvement in communication. Government is not communicating what it's doing adequately. I think this is partially because of inexperience on the side of government, while trying to grapple with a whole range of new tasks.

The responsibility for ensuring a people-driven process is a two- way thing. Here I want to put the challenge very firmly on the doorsteps of our ANC and community structures. If they are strong and organised, we will not

only be able to put pressure on government to involve us in the process, but also be able to support government in what it does. That is why we are putting a lot of energy into strengthening the RDP [Reconstruction and Development Program] council.

We must move away from a statist approach where we believe it's government's responsibility to do everything. It's also important to have a vibrant civil society. The people-driven component can only happen in a dynamic manner through civil society — that means our organisations.

Post-elections has been a very difficult phase for our organisation because most of the leadership of the democratic movement has gone into government and legislature. We suddenly found ourselves with this vacuum. This is going to be compounded in the local government elections.

The challenge we face is therefore building new layers of leadership. The ANC tried to revive support at grassroots level where there has been a lot of disillusionment with the organisation's performance. Indications are that this has not been a success, and tensions with the South African National Civics Organisation (SANCO) further confirm this.

It's not true that support at local level for the ANC has dwindled. Recent surveys and polls dismiss this view completely.

Even in the white community support for the ANC has in fact grown, respect for President Mandela in particular. Persistently, among certain sections of our community who are important opinion makers including the media, there seems to be this myth that the ANC is losing support, which is not true.

The latest polls show that people are a bit disappointed that things are not going as fast as they would like, but they don't blame the government for that. What they are saying is that the process of transformation is more difficult than we had all imagined.

With regard to SANCO, we are dealing with a breakdown in our structures and part of the casualty is the co-ordination that we have always managed between local organisations, not only between ANC and SANCO, but even between various other local structures.

We are putting a lot of effort into rebuilding our relationship with mass democratic formations and progressive non-governmental organisations. We've started at a national level to look at the causes of the breakdown in communications. A lot of it is about lack of leadership, time to meet on all sides.

All organisations — ANC, SANCO, COSATU [Congress of South African Trade Unions] — had to send some of their best people into government which is a crucial vehicle for transformation. We are now facing the challenge to build new leadership.

Political education is a crucial area we identified. It's one of the major legs of our organisation's strategy at the moment and we are quite well advanced in terms of setting up a nationally co-ordinated political education training programme. But how are communication structures going to be improved?

We've already re-launched MAYIBUYE, the newspaper of the ANC. We are not entirely happy. We think there is still room for improvement and we are still working on this. We are also emphasising the need to rationalise our communication resources and to build internal structures. Has your position in the ANC's hot seat influenced the government or the ANC to take gender issues more seriously?

I don't believe one swallow makes a summer. I still feel there is a lot of room for improvement. My being in the position of an official and my historical links with policy work have contributed a lot to policy formulation. This is also because women in the ANC have taken gender issue very seriously.

We are a fundamentally sexist society and that's why we have confronted this head on. Having women in leadership does make a difference. This is crucial to enturing gender sensitivity. Why did you refer to [IFP leader] Buthelezi as "Gatsha" in spite of his objection to using that name?

Buthelezi must learn that as a public representative, if he cannot stand vigorous debate then he must resign and must not seek election as a public leader. I'm very critical of a lot of the behaviour of Buthelezi. A lot of what he does and says is totally unbecoming of a national leader which he claims he is, and I would continue to criticise him.

Regarding his name "Gatsha", I got to know him as "Gatsha" and he lived with it for long time. I don't know why he is suddenly so sensitive.

The media and others often refer to him as "Doctor" Buthelezi, and to my knowledge he does not have a doctor's qualification, they're honorary doctorates. The President probably has 50, if not a hundred times more honorary doctorates than Buthelezi, yet he is always referred to as "Mister" Mandela. What is your response to his calls for your dismissal?

His calls for my dismissal are really very autocratic. He is effectively saying that he is like God, that we cannot

criticise him. He has never censored any members of the IFP when they have said quite outrageous things about our President and other political leaders in the country.

I don't think Buthelezi is anywhere near God and I reserve my right to criticise him very vigorously and be very critical of behaviour which I think necessitates criticism. And if Buthelezi doesn't like that, he must resign as a publicly elected representative.

Mbeki on Government Role in Developing Businesses

MB2407145895 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1405 GMT 24 Jul 95

[Report by Gordon Bel.]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sun City July 24 SAPA — The South African Government has an important role to play in the development of small and medium sized enterprises and particularly black business, according to executive Deputy President Thabo Mbeki.

Speaking at the National African Federated Chamber of Commerce [NAFCOC] annual convention at Sun City on Monday [24 July], Mbeki said small, medium and micro enterprises were important vehicles for addressing the challenges of economic growth, job creation and income generation. He said the government would facilitate the development of a coherent policy on development which recognised the special circumstances of black business.

"Of critical importance, though, unlike in the past, this government does not regard black businesses as junior partners within this economy. If anything, we view them as one of the central players to our economic revitalisation."

Mbeki said the government was presently reviewing competition policy and the role of the Competition Board. He said the process of democratisation in SA [South Africa] would remain flawed if the government did not broaden economic ownership, by addressing economic concentration and monopolisation.

The government would review its tendering process and allow black business economic empowerment in the areas of government procurement and contracts. He stressed the need for black businesses to unite into coordinating structures so as to secure the large government contracts. "It is my understanding that some of the state contracts are such that individual firms are unlikely to have the resources to execute these. This is yet another reason why unity, coordination and strategic partnerships are very important."

In a press briefing Mbeki said the government should play a role in the development of a black business development fund to provide entrepreneurs with the necessary capital.

Poll Finds 70 Percent Oppose Separate Volkstaat

MB2207155395 Johannesburg SATURDAY STAR in English 22 Jul 95 p 8

[Report by Troye Lund]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nearly 70% of South Africans polled recently on their views on a volkstaat [Afrikaner state] were opposed to the scheme.

Markinor conducted the survey in the metropolitan areas of Gauteng, Durban, Maritzburg, Bloemfontein, East London, Port Elizabeth and Cape Town.

Of the 2,000 people interviewed, 69% opposed the concept in principle and 14% favoured it.

Whites were least opposed (52%) and blacks the most (78%). But more than half of the white metropolitan population are against it, Maria Harris of Markinor Market Research said this week.

Only 1% of Indians were against a separate white homeland. Of the coloured respondents, 70% declared their opposition to the idea.

The viability of a volkstaat was strongly doubted by 64% of whites and 62% of the black, Indian and coloured group.

Indians place the most faith (25%) in the plan's viability. A fifth (21%) of whites interviewed believe it is viable as do 11% of coloured respondents.

When asked whether they would move to a volkstaat, 17% of whites said they would — a 1% increase from the 1993 survey.

According to Harris, the volkstaat is more offensive to groups who have higher levels of education. Capetonians are the most sceptical.

44 Children Dead From Political Violence in 1995

MB2407161095 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1527 GMT 24 Jul 95

[Report by Micel Schnehage]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Durban July 24 SAPA — Forty-four children and youths have died in political violence this year — 40 of them in KwaZulu/Natal, the Human Rights Commission [HRC] said on Monday [24 July].

HRC researcher Linda McLean told SAPA 129 children and youths under the age of 18 died in political fighting

in KwaZulu/Natal in 1994. The national toll for the year was 144. In the latest killing KwaZulu police said a four-year-old toddler was shot dead at his home in Nongoma when unidentified gunmen fired randomly into the house on Thursday night [20 July]. The child died instantly after being hit three times, police said.

Mclean said most of the victims had been either shot or hacked to death while others died in homes and dwellings set alight in endemic violence in the province. She added, however, that not all the youths were blameless. Some were themselves involved in violence. Many of these children had been separated from their families and lived in groups in abandoned homes in the province's rural areas where faction fighting and rivalry between the African National Congress and the Inkatha Freedom Party was rife.

These children were particularly vulnerable to attacks and many became delinquents due to a !ack of parental guidance and control. Poverty was also a problem. These youths were also particularly vulnerable and open to abuse by leaders who used them in terror campaigns and attacks. Mclean said all political parties involved in violence in KwaZulu/Natal were guilty of taking advantage of children who had become "vi_tims of a violent society." In some instances violence was "applauded" by community leaders who lived by the gun and who aspired to power and control within their areas, said McLean.

Mbeki: Clemency Plea Well-Received by Nigeria

MB2407150995 Johannesburg TPE STAR in English 24 Jul 95 p 3

[Report by Dale Lautenbach]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Deputy President Thabo Mbeki flew out of Nigeria yesterday confident that his appeal for clemency for citizens involved in an alleged coup plot would be sympathetically considered.

"We are certain that the Nigerian government is sensitive to the concerns we and many other people have raised with regard to clemency," Mbeki said during his return flight from Abuja, the Nigerian capital.

Mbeki held more than three hours of talks with Nigerian military ruler General Sani Abacha on Friday night [21 July], during which Abacha assured him that there would be no immediate dramatic action in respect of the alleged coup plotters.

No official announcements have been made, but it has been widely reported that of the 51 accused who were tried by a secret military tribunal, 14 have been sentenced to death — and former head of state General Olusegun Obasanjo to life imprisonment.

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Abacha told Mbeki that the cases were on appeal to the defence council, which would probably hear them early this week after which they would be referred to the military provisional ruling council.

A number of government voices said they did not believe the alleged plotters would be executed.

However, Mbeki's mission, which was intended to reinforce President Mandela's earlier call for clemency and to engage in the broader process of Nigerian transition to democracy, was thrown briefly into quandary on Saturday afternoon when Mbeki received news that there had been executions earlier that morning. It was confirmed a little later that there had indeed been executions of 43 armed robbers, not political dissidents.

"The Nigerian crisis on which South Africa had to act was a first real step in building a partnership between these two countries." he said.

Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister Aziz Pahad, who will return to Abuja soon with Mandela's response to the issues raised in the Mbeki-Abacha meeting, said the South African mission had not been intended as a demonstration of support with what was wrong with Nigeria but of support for the efforts Nigeria was making to solve its problems.

Mbeki will brief Mandela and will hold discussions with the ambassadors of the Southern African Development Community and the U.S. and UK heads of mission, who have voiced particular criticism of recent events in Nigeria.

Angola

Santos, Savimbi To Hold 2d Meeting in Aug

MB2107130695 Luanda Radio Nacional Network in Portuguese 1208 GMT 21 Jul 95

[Report by Pedro Manuel]

[FBIS Translated Text] The second meeting between Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos and Jonas Savimbi, National Union for the Total Independence of Angola [UNITA] leader, will take place in August, in an African country still to be determined.

Yesterday, government and UNITA soldiers began discussing issues pertaining to the conclusion of the Angolan Armed Forces' [FAA] formation process. Once again, that meeting did not continue. Why?

No one has said exactly what is happening. It is said behind the scenes that the government and UNITA soldiers are faced with a stalemate. Led by General Chris Garuba, the Ad Hoc Commission for the formation of the FAA was supposed to have been on hand to deal with what the agreement described as the group [words indistinct] formation. Reports by Portugal's LUSA news agency reinforce the perception that there are different perceptions concerning the number of soldiers to be drafted into the FAA. It has been agreed that there will be a general draft, but then demobilization will follow. This might mean that a large slice of UNITA soldiers could be demobilized and this is precisely what senior UNITA military officers do not want. LUSA reports that, from their point of view, half of UNITA's 60,000 armed men must be absorbed by the new unified army. However, the government has said no to that.

To ease matters, the government has proposed the creation of a fourth FAA branch that would help with national reconstruction. A large portion of UNITA soldiers would go into that branch. Thus, the two sides have different positions on this issue. Gen. Chris Garuba will now try to bridge the gap.

Meanwhile, LUSA reports preparations are under way for another meeting between President Jose Eduardo dos Santos and UNITA leader Jonas Savimbi, which is scheduled to happen in an African country in August.

UNITA Official on Military Issues Talks

MB2407193495 Jamba Voz da Resistencia do Galo Negro in Portuguese 1900 GMT 24 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] National Union for the Total Independence of Angola [UNITA] and government teams have been discussing military issues in general, and the formation of the Angolan Armed Forces [FAA] in particular, in the Angolan capital. They are expected

to resume talks tomorrow after taking a break for the weekend. Speaking to the media in Luanda today, Dr. Jorge Valentim, director of the UNITA office responsible for verifying the Lusaka peace accord's implementation, said the two sides have reached an agreement that demobilized soldiers will not be left to their fate. There is the need to create conditions so society can absorb them, Dr. Valentim noted.

Concerning the Lusaka Protocol's implementation, that UNITA official recognized there have been some delays. He said the UN Angola Verification Mission must bear some of the blame, particularly with regard to troop confinement. He noted that the areas earmarked for troop confinement do not meet basic accommodation requirements for the soldiers and their relatives. Dr. Valentim also said there is a cordial atmosphere at the talks, adding that he hopes there will be satisfactory results in the direction of the peace the Angolan people have waited for so long.

Opposition Militants Reportedly 'Tortured' by MPLA

MB2507074695 Jamba Voz da Resistencia do Galo Negro in Portuguese 0600 GMT 25 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Opposition militants in Uige continue to be harassed by the MPLA's [Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola] security services. Our Negage correspondent reports that this contravenes the spirit and letter of the Lusaka Protocol. UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] militants and sympathizers held without mandate in MPLA jails in Uige have been tortured mercilessly by security agents. The whereabouts of (Zitala Mamona), representative of the Democratic Party for Progress-Angolan National Alliance, PDP-ANA, in Uige, are still unknown. In line with undemocratic practices, people have been abducted in the dead of night.

Finance Minister Tomas Discusses Visit to U.S.

MB2507093495 Luanda TPA Television Network in Portuguese 1930 GMT 24 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Finance Minister Augusto Tomas returned home on 24 July from a working visit to the United States.

[Begin recording] [Tomas] The measures the Angolan Government has introduced to create the foundations for future economic (?stability) were greatly appreciated. We dealt at length with technical issues and [words indistinct] of the 1995-96 program.

[Unidentified correspondent] Will these technical issues lead to an increase in the cost of living? Measures

imposed by international financial institutions usually lead to that.

[Tomas] The aim of any program is not to increase the cost of living, but to stabilize the economy. There can be no economic, financial, and social stability without hardships at the start. It is impossible to be well off without working. Work demands hardship and effort. The same happens with the economy. One must first organize and stabilize the economy. There will be benefits [words indistinct].

[Correspondent] How long until these benefits are felt?

[Tomas] There are no short-term economic recovery programs. Usually, they are medium-term programs that last about three to five years. This is the minimum time required for macroeconomic indicators to reach acceptable levels. The problem is finding ways to resolve people's difficulties on a short-term basis, while stabilizing the economy on a medium-term basis.

[Correspondent] Whom did you meet in San Francisco? [Tomas] We met with Chevron officials. [end recording]

Mozambique

Frelimo 'Completely' Reshuffles Executive Branch MB2407191795 Maputo Radio Maputo in English 1800 GMT 24 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] The Central Committee of Mozambique's ruling Frelimo [Mozambique Liberation Front] Party has completely reshuffled its executive body, the Secretariat, removing five out of six of the old members. The final statement issued from a sevenday meeting of the Central Committee which ended this morning revealed that the only surviving member of the old secretariat is Manuel Tome, who has been promoted from the post of secretary for mobilization and propaganda to that of general secretary, second only to the Frelimo president in the formal hierarchy of the party.

Mr. Tome replaces Feliciano Gundana, a veteran of the independence struggle and one of the first Frelimo guerrillas to have received military training in Algeria in the early 1960's. [passage omitted]

Mr. Tome, 42 years old, is a journalist by profession who has held jobs as chief news editor on the daily paper NOTICIAS, general secretary of the Mozambican Journalists' Union, and general director of Radio Mozambique. [passage omitted]

Five new members were elected to the Secretariat. They are: The former governors of Tete and Niassa Provinces, Cadmiel Muthemba and Julio N'chola; Laurinda Canji,

who used to manage the [words indistinct] state-owned engineering factory in Maputo; Veronica Macamo; and Alcindo Cumba. [passage omitted]

The reshuffle was unexpected. On 20 July, Mr. Tome told reporters there were no proposals to reshape the Secretariat but on 22 July the Central Committee reopened the debate on the structure of the party. There had been some criticism that the Secretariat under Mr. Gundana had lacked dynamism.

Mr. Tome told a news conference this morning that on 22 July, to facilitate the Central Committee's work, the entire Secretariat had resigned, thus putting their positions at the Committee's disposal.

The committee also set up a working group led by Political Committee member and former Information Minister Rafael Maguni to present within 60 days a proposal for restructuring the rest of the party apparatus. Mr. Maguni's commission is to look into ways of rationalizing the party's work force, but making sure that aernative work can be found for anyone made redundant.

The Central Committee also recommended that Frelimo members of Parliament should not also hold full-time jobs in the party. Each case will be looked at individually to see whether the deputies concerned should resign their parliamentary seats to seek full-time work [words indistinct] or would still be able to conduct the two. The final document also called for appropriate mechanisms for a relationship between the party and the government so that at each moment government action corresponds to the party's program. [passage omitted]

New Frelimo Secretary General Interviewed

MB2407202995 London BBC World Service in English 1705 GMT 24 Jul 95

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] There has been a big clearout at the top of Mozambique's ruling party, Frelimo [Mozambique Liberation Front]. All but one of the six-member party secretariat have been replaced and the Central Committee has appointed the sole survivor, Manuel Tome, as the new general secretary. He takes over from Feliciano Gundana, a veteran of the Mozambican struggle for independence. On the line to Maputo, Barnaby Philips put it to Manuel Tome that following today's changes, a new generation of Frelimo leaders had now excelled the old guard.

[Begin recording] [Tome] The idea is, of course, to get new blood in the leadership of the party, but as you may know, sometimes you can have new people,

younger generation in some leadership body, but if the mentality is not new, you can have the people there that you can't make changes. You can write changes in the constitution, you can write the changes in decisions, but you cannot have these changes if the mentality is not new. So what is more important is the change of mentality, and what this is, it is to try to not forget the merit of the people from the armed struggle, but trying to renovate and make the party more active, this is the main idea.

[Philips] So what kind of changes? You talk about making the party more active, what do you mean specifically in practical terms?

[Tome] One of the decisions we took in this session of the Central Committee is to reduce the party apparatus. We inherited this very big structure of the party, taking into consideration all the experiences and links we had with parties of Eastern Europe. What we are doing now is trying to make this party apparatus more efficient and not trying to make this structure coinciding with the structure of the government.

[Philips] Now, if you do make widespread changes, for example, if many people end up losing their jobs, do you expect to encounter much resistance and have much of a struggle to modernize the party in the way you are talking?

[Tome] We don't want anybody to lose their jobs. We have many party members so we have to make approaches to them in order to find some jobs for the people who are going to leave the party apparatus. We are going only when we have assured that they will find a new job. Without that we are not going to do it.

[Philips] Now, tell me, Mr. Tome, you come from Manica Province, in the center of the country where Frelimo did badly in the election and Renamo [Mozambique National Resistance] are very much more popular. Do you think you are promoted in order to help Frelimo's image in that part of the country?

[Tome] Of course, this is my job and the job of all my colleagues in this region, but my election has nothing to do directly with the situation there.

[Philips] It wasn't anything to do with balancing up different regions then?

[Tome] No, no, no. The secretariat is a very small body of six members so with only six people in this body, you can't cover all the regions of the country, so I don't think that this issue of region can be the first criteria. The first criteria is to concentrate on the people. [end recording]

Swaziland

Dlamini Visit With Jordanian King 'Well Received'

MB2007180995 Mbabane Radio Swaziland Network in English 1600 GMT 20 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] His Majesty King Mswati III's special envoy and also foreign affairs minister, Mr. Solomon Dlamini, is back home after delivering a special message to King Husayn of Jordan. In an interview with SBIS [Swaziland Broadcasting and Information Services] today, Mr. Dlamini said he was well received in Jordan and was also impressed that King Husayn is well-informed of the political and economic changes that are taking place in the country. He disclosed that King Husayn has also shown an interest in visiting the country in the near future. Mr. Dlamini said Jordan is well developed, adding that there are areas of trade which the country can take advantage of.

Mr. Dlamini said he will meet with his counterparts in cabinet to discuss the various areas of trade between the two countries. Asked if Swaziland has established diplomatic ties with Jordan, Mr. Dlamini said Swaziland has not established diplomatic ties with Arab states but there are signs that this country can now open ties with those countries. Mr. Dlamini said the diplomatic ties that are now being discussed with Jordan have not been initiated by him but by His Majesty following a meeting with his counterpart, King Husayn. He said together with his Jordanian counterpart they have a duty to speed up the process of strengthening the already existing ties.

Zambia

Editorial: Government 'Obsessed' With Secrets

MB2007120095 Lusaka THE POST in English 6 Jun 95 p 6

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dishonesty is becoming entrenched in Zambian public life. The cleverest politician seems to be the one who is good at telling lies.

Health Minister Michael Sata is a successful politician not necessarily because of his good deeds or deep knowledge of issues but because of his great ability to spin elaborate tales without much difficulty or thought — he even lies on oath. Chief Justice Matthew Ngulube can bear testimony to this.

Economy with the truth seems to be the norm rather than the exception in our public life today. Last week we asked why a minister friend of ours had told the nation a lie on television. His justification for dishonesty was: "I am a politician. Politics is dirty."

But why should politics be dishonest and dirty? Politicians deal with peoples' lives and destinies — a very

noble thing. It is the politicians and not politics that are dirty and who need scrubbing to cleanse them of their iniquities.

The best qualification for a Zambian politician today seems to be a 'masters degree in lies' from Warwick University. And if dishonesty is such a critical factor in Zambian politics how can we expect our politicians especially those controlling the affairs of state and the government to introduce accountability and transparency?

It is naive to expect these same politicians to introduce measures that will allow citizens to have more access to public information — a practice that will greatly reduce and impair their capacity to lie.

And if State House's capacity to lie and deny was impaired the President might find it extremely difficult to govern even for a day — resignation may not be a far-fetched option.

It is therefore understandable why our President and his close officials are so obsessed with the protection of government secrets — a category so broad as to cover even personal misdeeds or love letters and photographs.

If what our government officials do under the veil of government secrets were brought into the open for all to see not even Samuel Matete would be able to rum fast enough to catch His Excellency.

This is the reality of the battle of those who endeavour to bring to light what our rulers are doing on our behalf but do not want us to know. And the greater the dishonesty or deception the greater the secrecy. The greater the secrecy the more vicious the reaction to the blood hound trying to uncover the hidden.

Liberia

ULIMO Fighters Return to Cleared Highway

AB2407213795 London BBC World Service in English 1505 GMT 24 Jul 95

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The ECOMOG [Economic Community for West African States Cease-Fire Monitoring Group] force in Liberia are facing resistance from some ULIMO [United Liberation Movement for Democracy in Liberia] fighters whose checkpoints in Kakata, 35 miles were taken over a week ago. The deployment of ECOMOG forces was only made possible after long, drawn-out negotiations involving the NPFL [National Patriotic Front of Liberia], and ECOMOG were hoping to keep the highway open all the way up to the NPFL headquarters of Gbarnga so that relief supplies could reach rural Liberia, but it seems ULIMO aren't too happy about their having to give up their positions. From Gbarnga, our correspondent, Jonathan Peleyle, faxed this report:

Fighters of Roosevelt Johnson's ULIMO, who were removed from checkpoints in Kakata last week, returned to the highway yesterday afternoon posing problems for the already fragile traffic. Passing through Kakata last night, I met a group of visibly disgruntled ULIMO fighters firmly in control of one of the checkpoints that had been taken over by ECOMOG troops last week. Although the troops were not carrying any visible arms, their presence and unruly behavior seriously impeded the movement of people on the highway as all (?travelers and) commercial vehicle were made to stop amid harassment from the Johnson fighters.

ECOMOG officials I talked to in Kakata said the situation would be put under control before the end of the day but up until 7 PM the fighters were still on the highway, demanding money from people trying to pass through. Apart from this checkpoint, which is located at the intersection of the Kakata-Gbarnga Highway, and the 19 Mile Road leading to the mining town of Bong

Mines, the peacekeeping troops are in control of all other checkpoints in Kakata.

Sierra Leone

RUF Rebels Kill 17 Civilians in Village Raids

AB2407194395 Paris AFP in English 1851 GMT 24 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Freetown, 24 Jul (AFP) — Seventeen civilians in war-torn Sierra Leone have died in a rebel killing spree while at least 23 more have died of hunger in a displaced persons camp, traditional chiefs and officials said Monday [24 July]. According to a series of reports released by chiefs in the area, roughly 100 rebels of the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) went on the rampage last week through a series of villages near the second city Bo, 170 kilometres (105 miles) east of the capital.

Over 30 villages were burned down while a total of 17 civilians were killed in several incidents, the chiefs said. Villagers were also abducted and forced to carry looted property, in particular food, for the rebels. In one incident eight rebels dressed in military fatigues rounded up 10 women in a farmhouse, killing two of them. Over 15,000 civilians have since fled to relative safety in Bo, the chiefs said.

Meanwhile, an official from a displaced persons camp near Segbwema, 255 kilometres (160 miles) east of Freetown, said that at least 23 people have starved to death recently in the 500-hut camp. Welfare officer Alusine Jusu said others had been killed by rebels after wandering off into the surrounding scrubland in search of food.

Jusu told AFP by telephone from Kenema, 240 kilometres (150 miles) east of Freetown, that the only food received by the inmates since May has been a single delivery from the Sierra Leone Red Cross. Inhabitants have been forced to live on bananas and other wild fruit. [passage omitted]

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